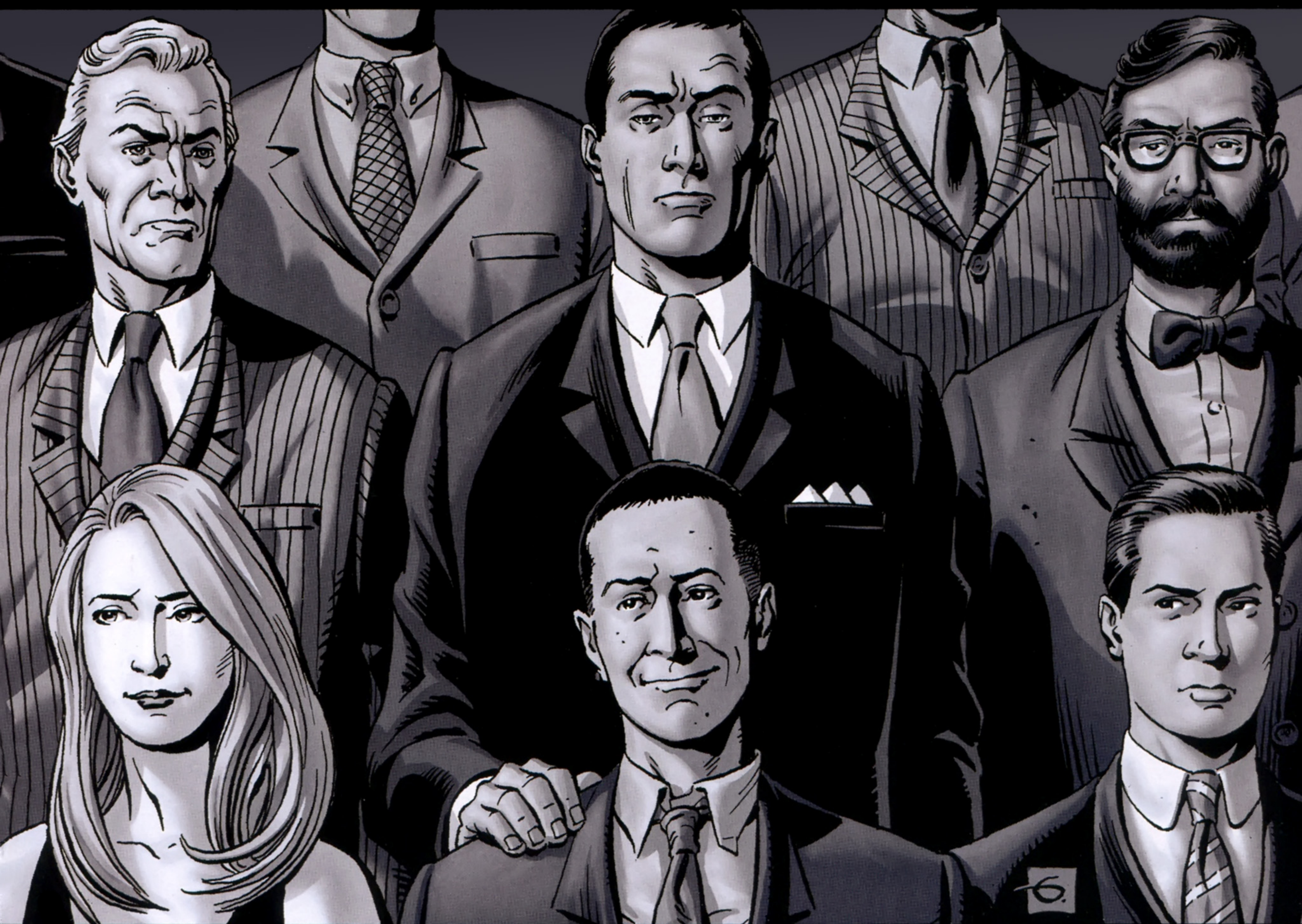


MARK MILLAR

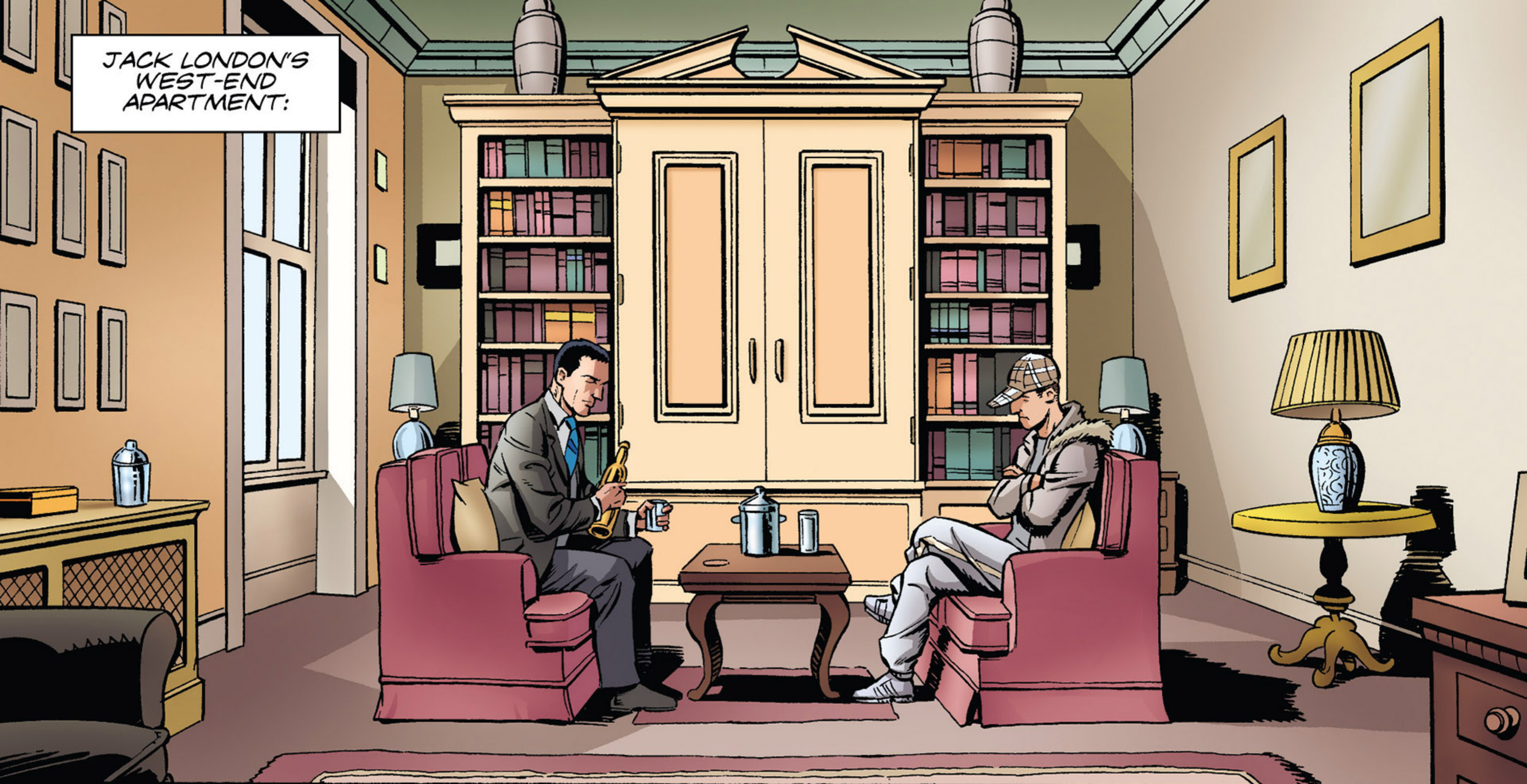
DAVE GIBBONS

the **SECRET
SERVICE**



4
\$2.99

JACK LONDON'S
WEST-END
APARTMENT:



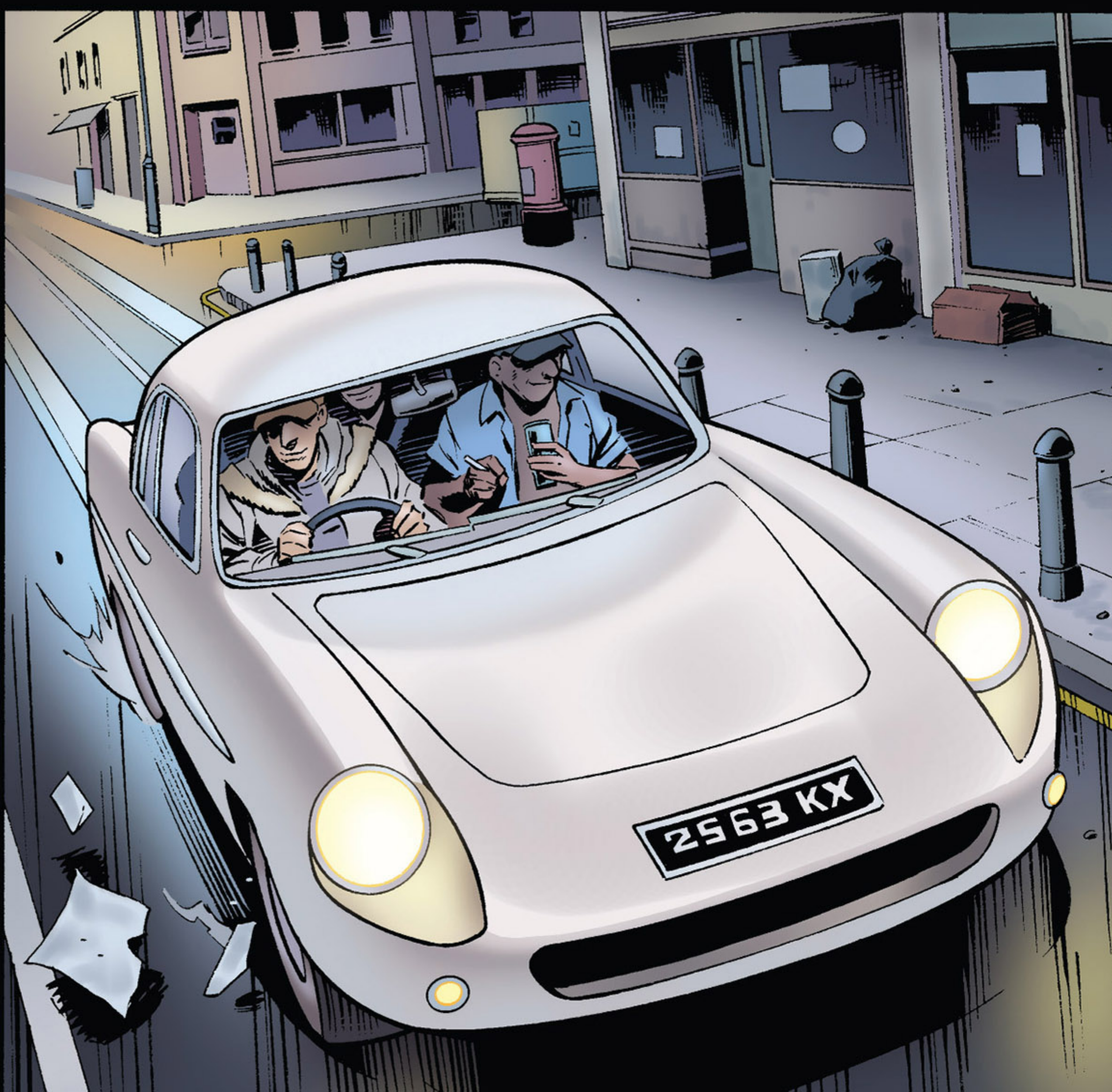
EXPLAIN.



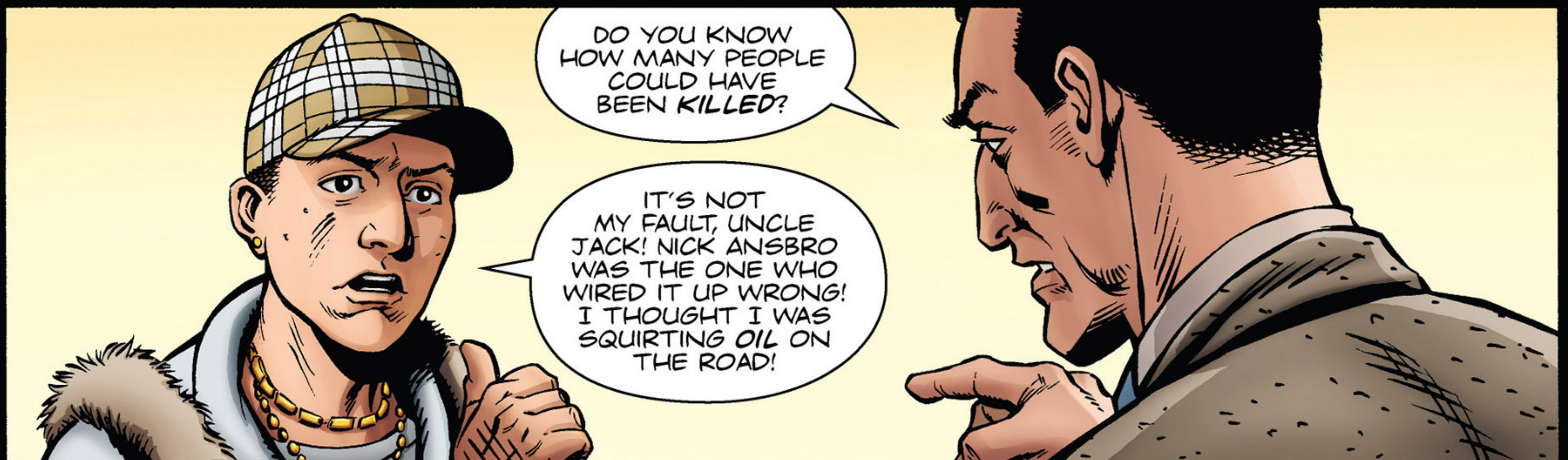
I DIDN'T LIKE IT.
I DON'T WANT
TO BE A SECRET
AGENT. IT'S
FUCKING
BOLLOCKS.

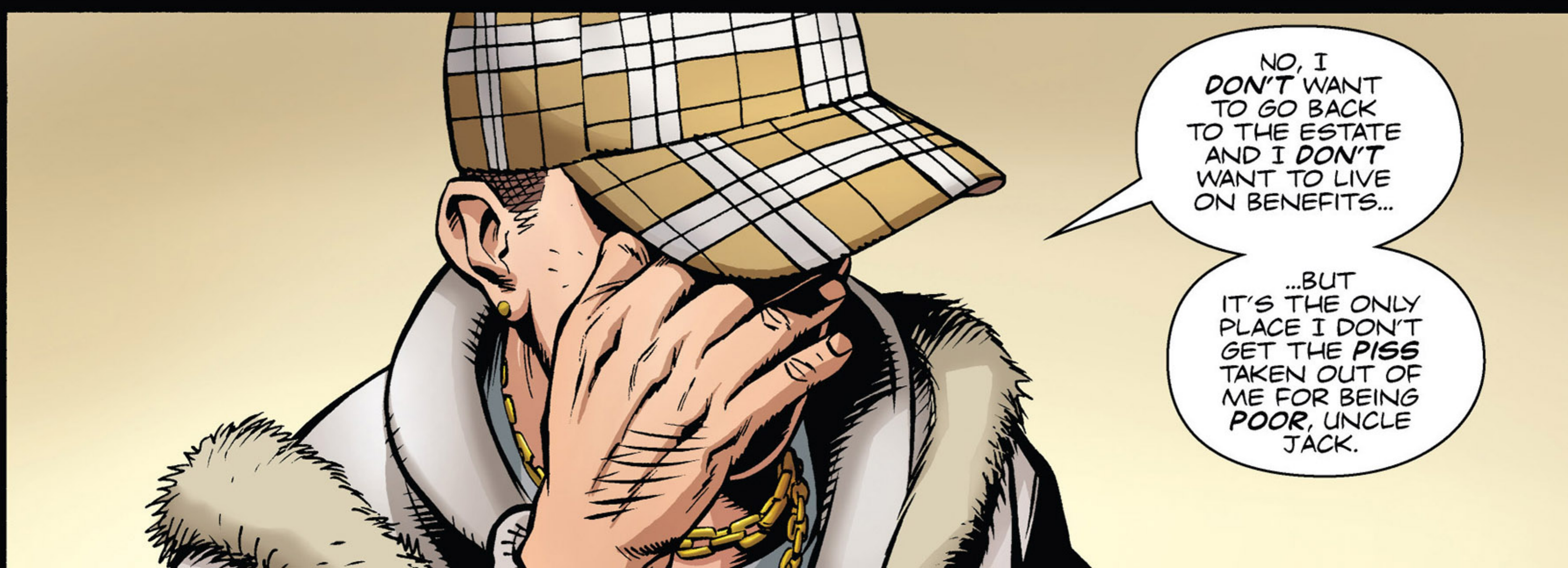
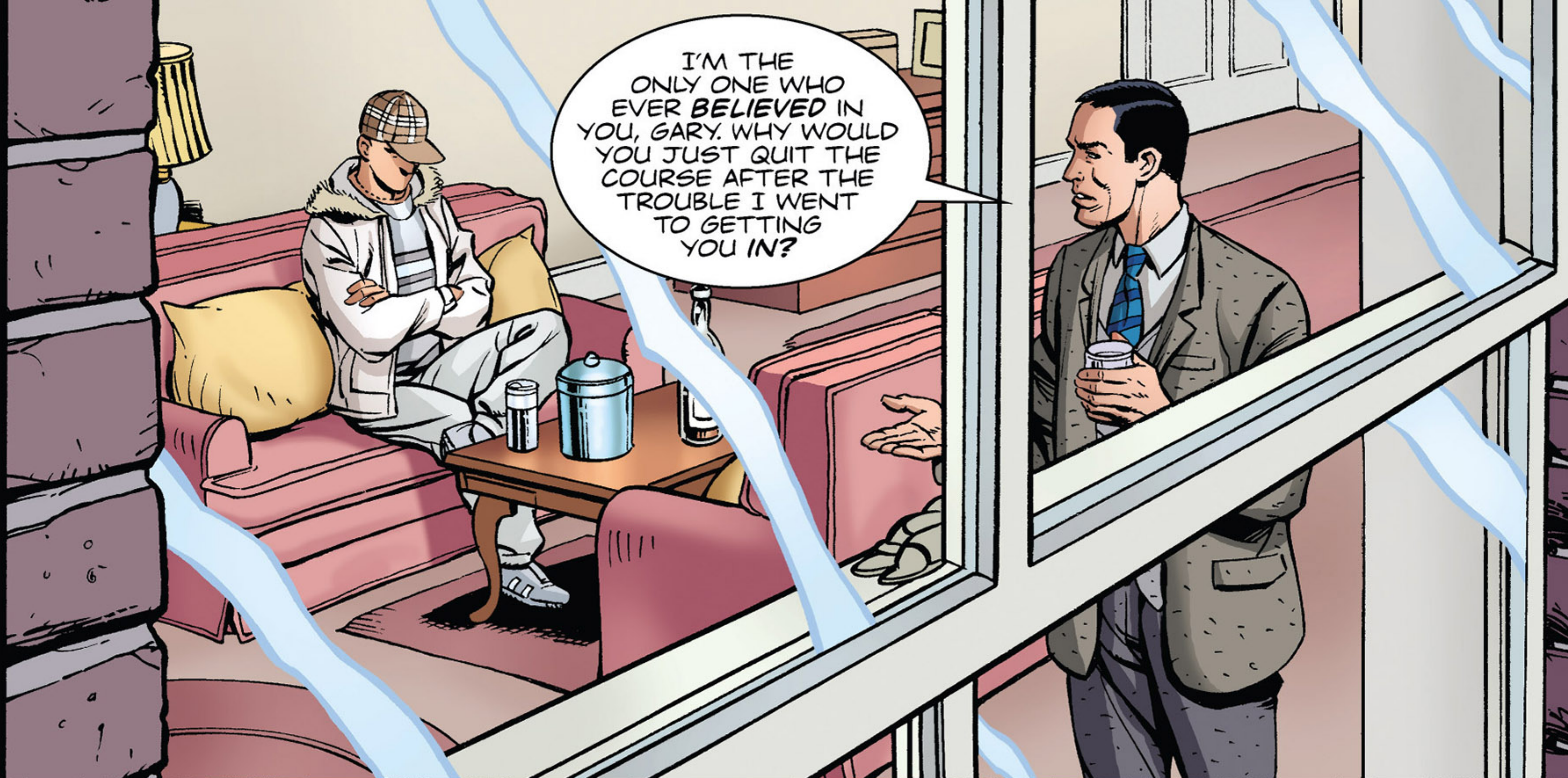


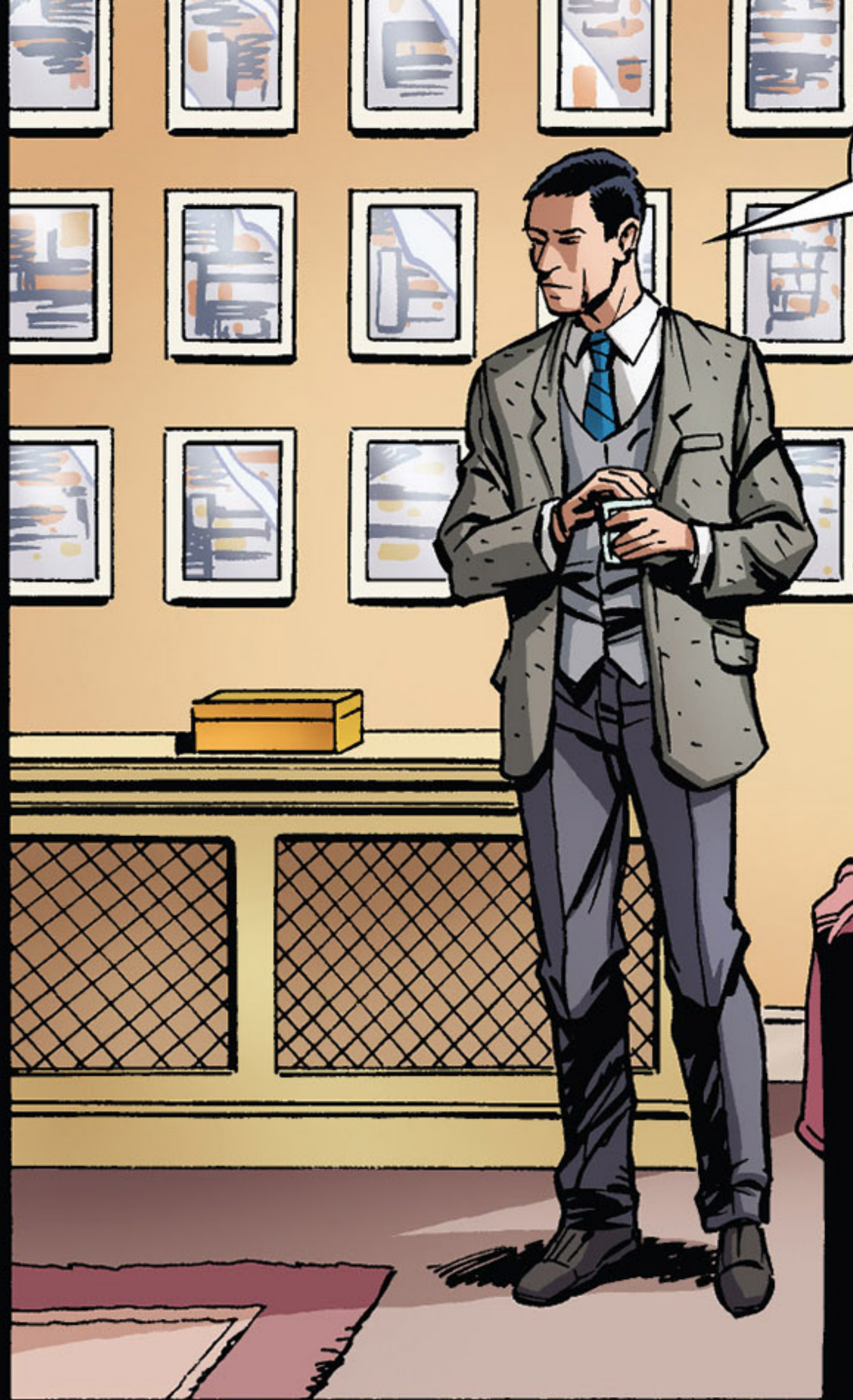
I'M NOT TALKING
ABOUT THE COURSE.
I'M ASKING WHY
YOU GOT DRUNK
AND STOLE MY
BLOODY CAR.







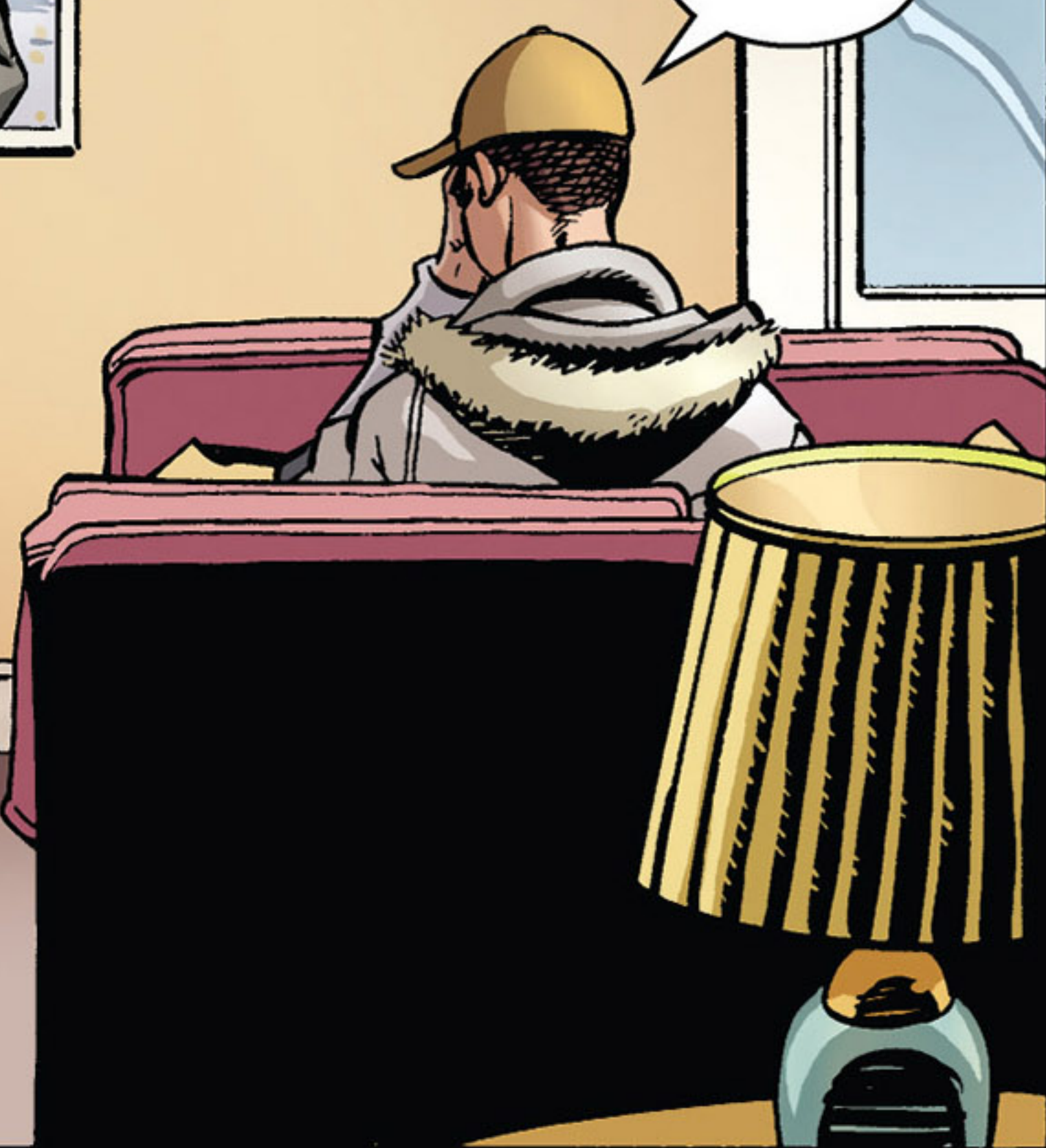




YOU KNOW WHAT **THESE** ARE UP ON THE WALL?

SNIFF.

NO.

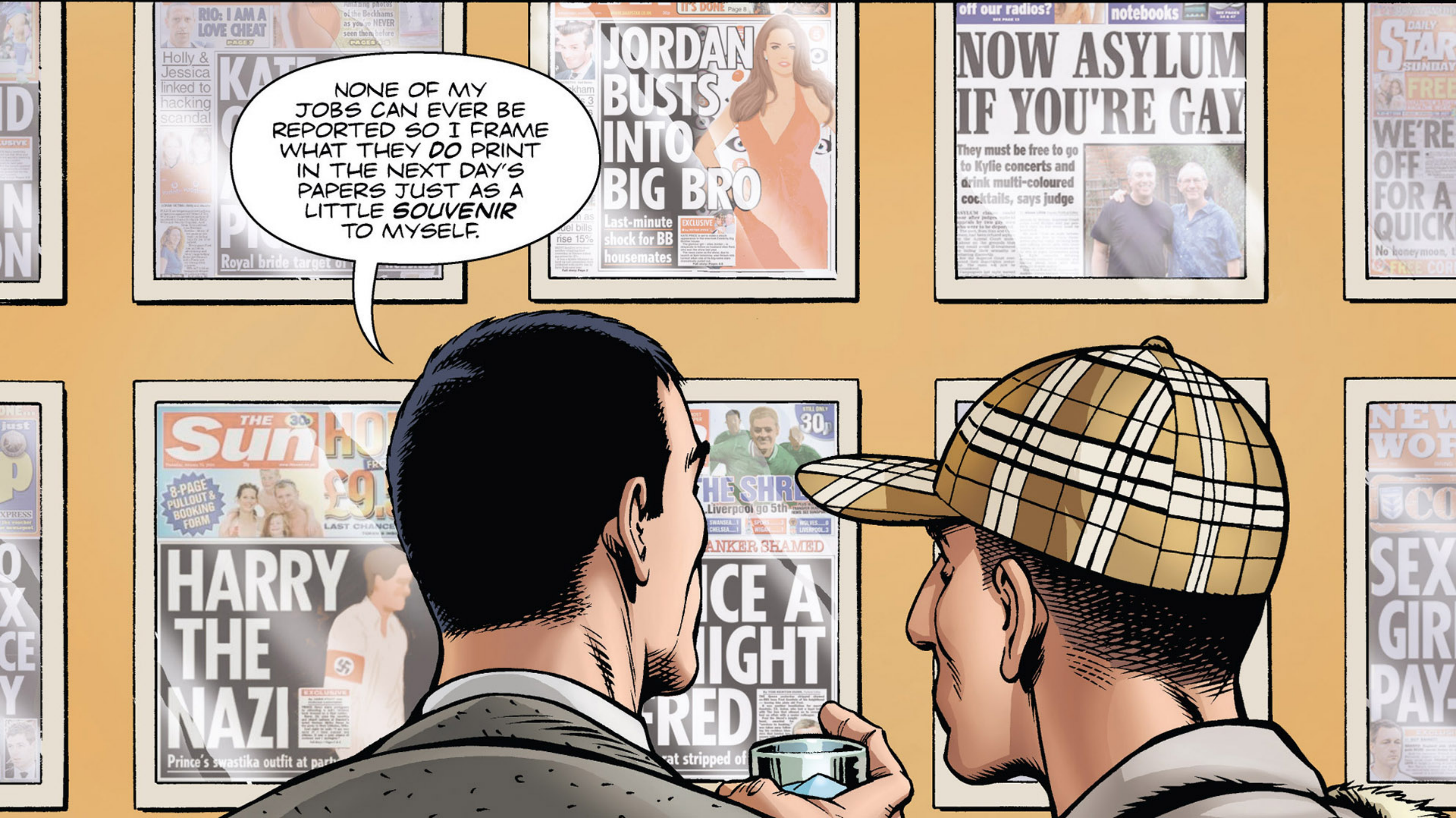


THESE ARE ALL THE TIMES I'VE SAVED THE WORLD.

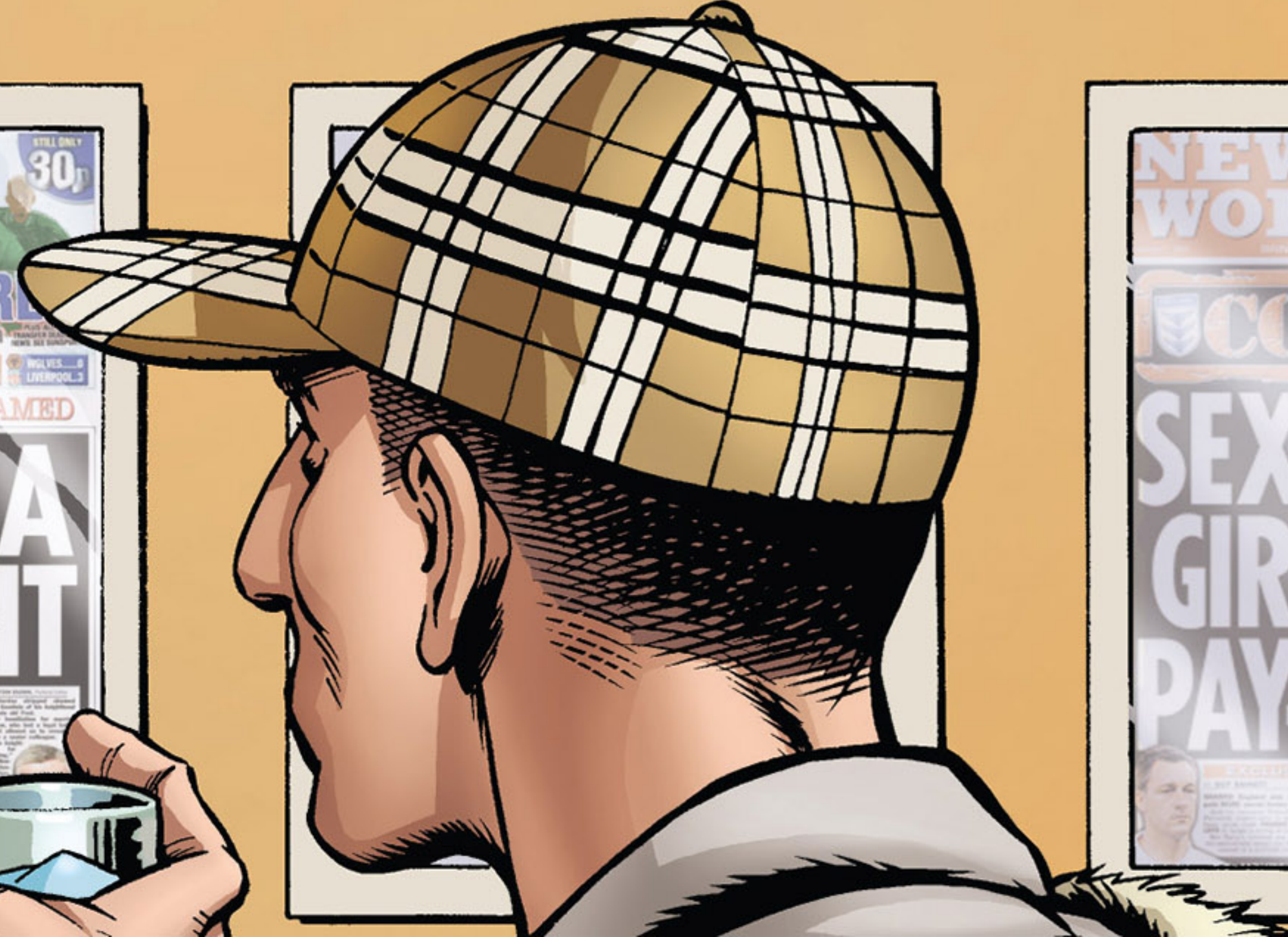
SERIOUSLY, TAKE A LOOK. THIS STUFF HAPPENS MORE THAN YOU'D EXPECT AND THIS WALL IS A CHRONICLE OF EVERY **SUBMARINE** I'VE EVER SANK OR **DEATH-RAY** I EVER SABOTAGED.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S ALL JUST HEADLINES ABOUT **DAVID BECKHAM** AND STUFF.

THAT'S BECAUSE EVERYTHING I'VE DONE FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS HAS BEEN SO CLASSIFIED THAT EVEN THE **PRIME MINISTER** ONLY HEARS WHAT WE THINK HE CAN HANDLE.



NONE OF MY JOBS CAN EVER BE REPORTED SO I FRAME WHAT THEY DO PRINT IN THE NEXT DAY'S PAPERS JUST AS A LITTLE **SOUVENIR** TO MYSELF.





DOESN'T IT
MAKE YOU
MAD?
PEOPLE NOT
KNOWING?

NO.
BECAUSE
FAME AND FOR-
TUNE DOESN'T
MAKE YOU HAPPY.
I'VE GUARDED
ENOUGH CELEBRI-
TIES TO KNOW
HOW MISERABLE
THEY REALLY
ARE.



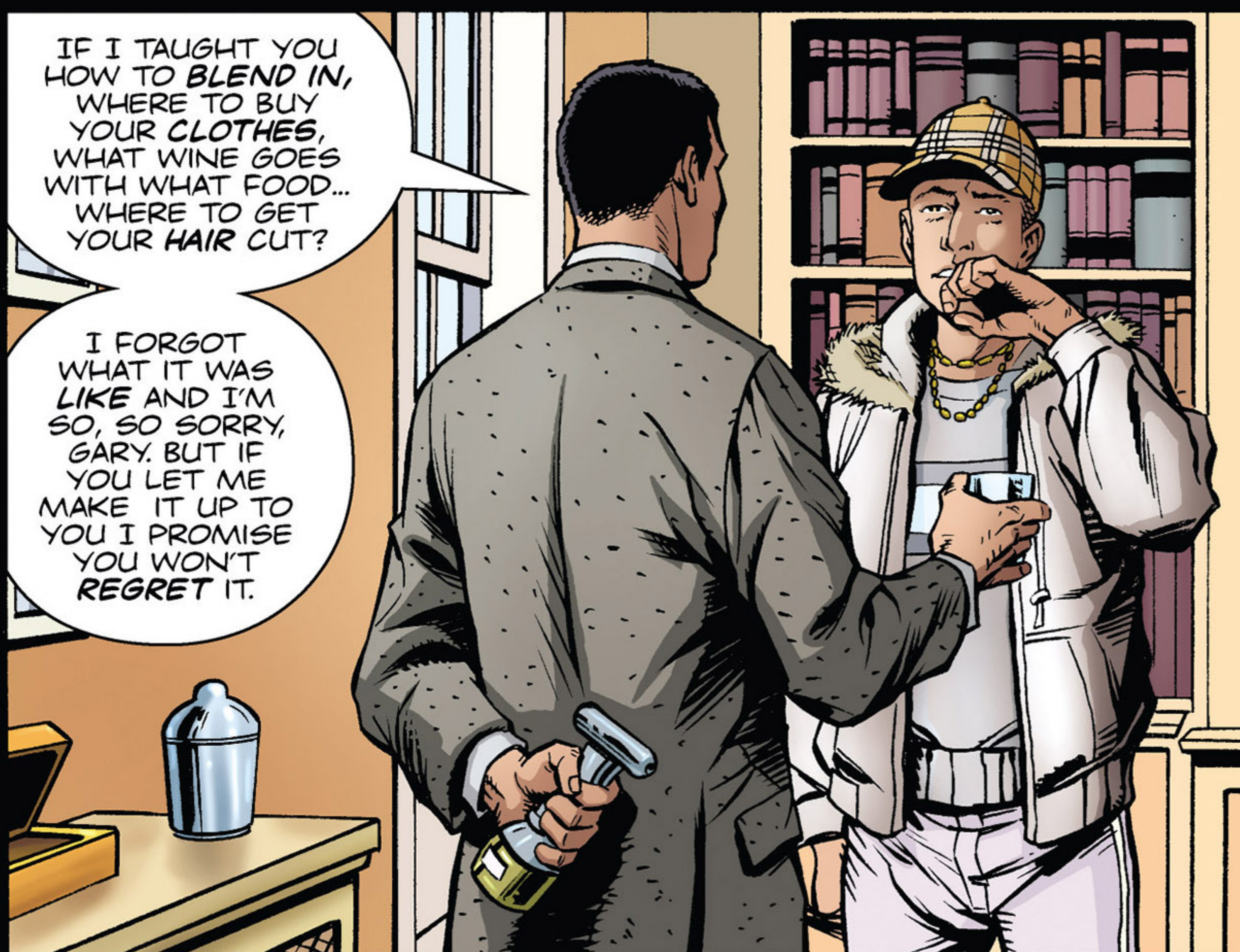
ALL I MAKE IS A DECENT WAGE
AND THEY GIVE ME THE FLAT AND
A FANCY CAR. BUT BEING IN MAGA-
ZINES OR TV TALENT SHOWS
SHOULDN'T BE THE LIMIT OF OUR
ASPIRATIONS. THAT'S WHAT YOU
GUYS NEED TO UNDERSTAND.

HELPING
OTHER PEOPLE
IS THE ONLY
THING THAT
MATTERS.
PUBLIC SERVICE
IS WHAT GIVES
A MAN REAL
VALUE.



WOULD YOU
COME BACK AND
TRY AGAIN IF I
MADE YOU MY
APPRENTICE?

WHAT?



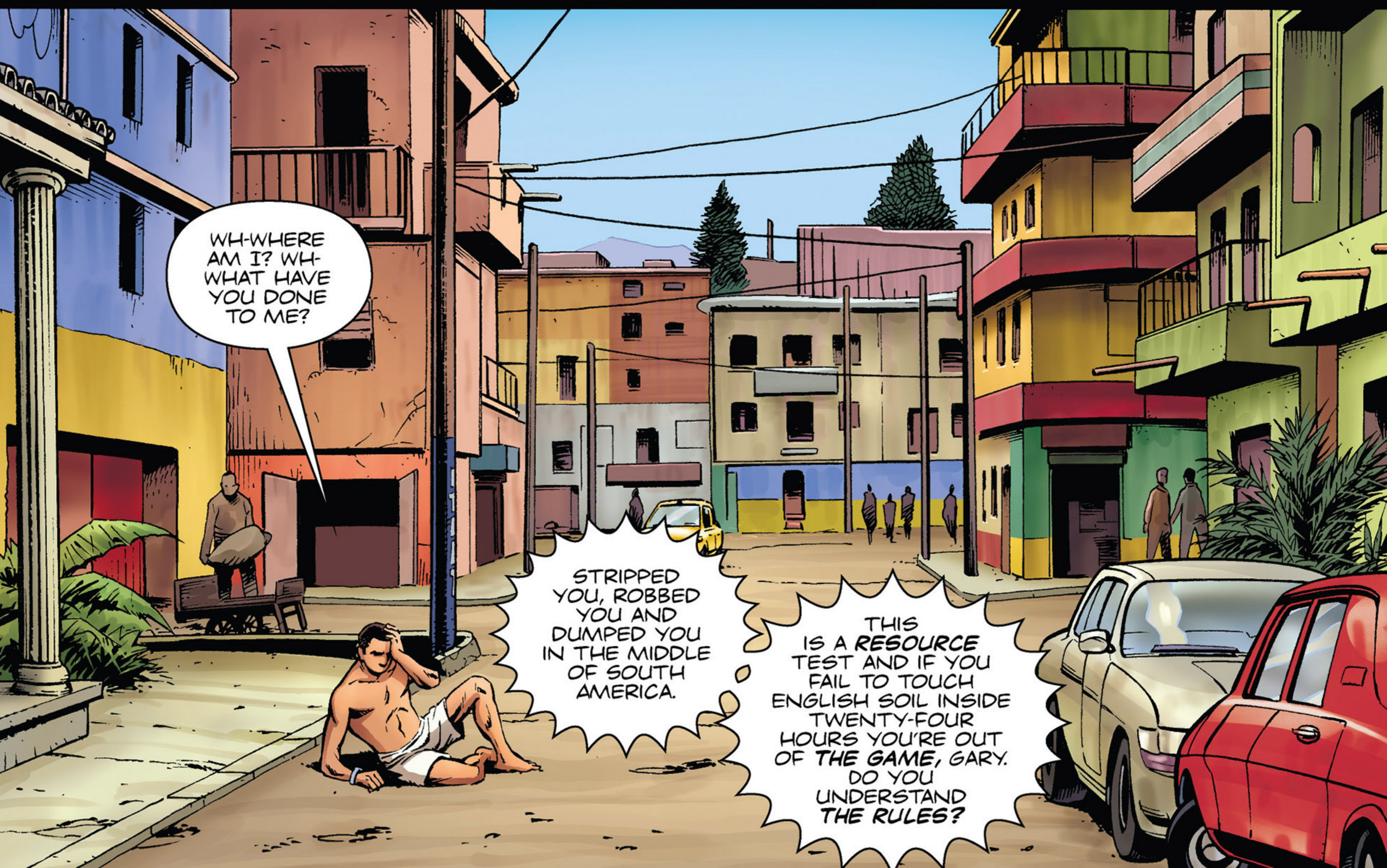
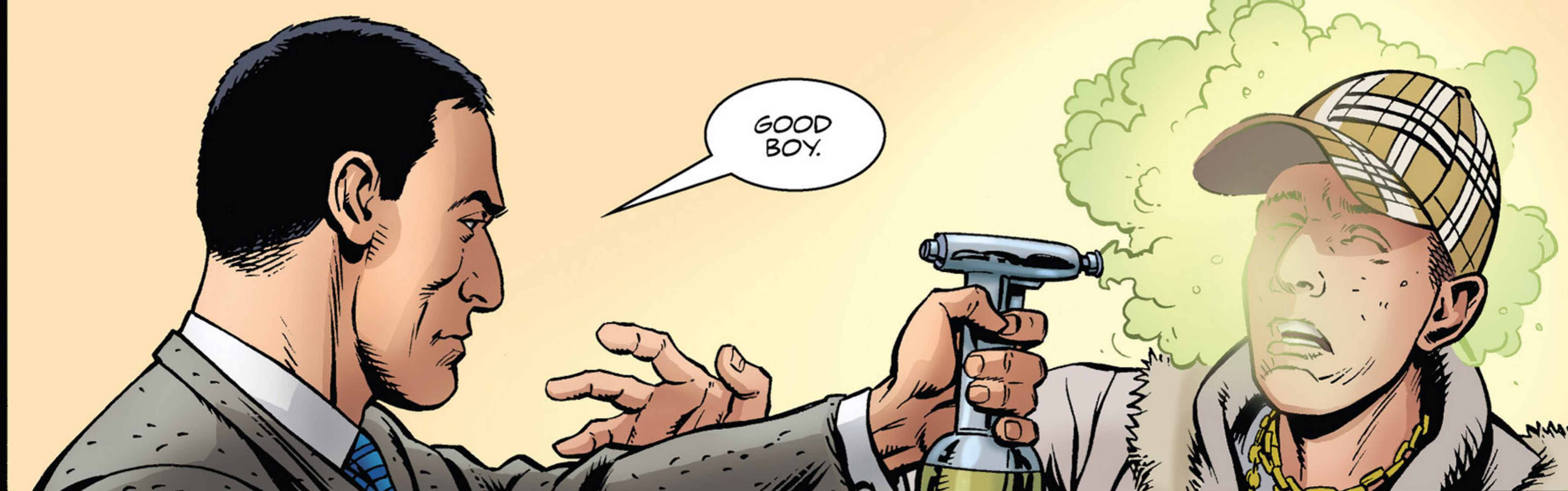
IF I TAUGHT YOU
HOW TO **BLEND IN**,
WHERE TO BUY
YOUR **CLOTHES**,
WHAT WINE GOES
WITH WHAT FOOD...
WHERE TO GET
YOUR **HAIR CUT**?

I FORGOT
WHAT IT WAS
LIKE AND I'M
SO, SO SORRY,
GARY. BUT IF
YOU LET ME
MAKE IT UP TO
YOU I PROMISE
YOU WON'T
REGRET IT.



WHY
NOT?

NOTHING
ELSE GOING
ON, I
SUPPOSE.

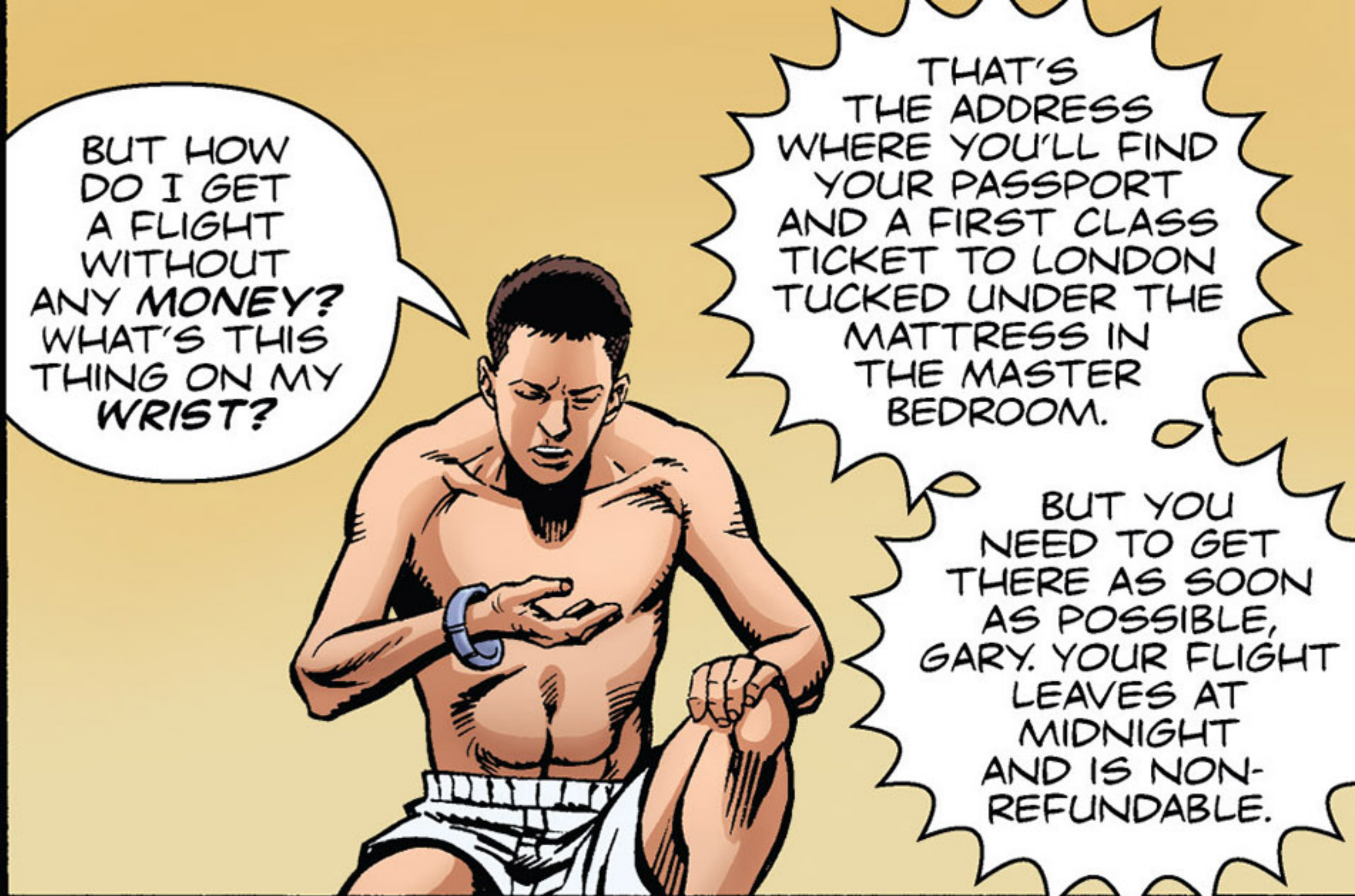




B-BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WANTED ME BACK.

I DO, BUT DEPUTY TRAINING OFFICER QUINN NEEDED A LITTLE MORE PERSUASION. THAT'S WHY WE'VE BUMPED YOU SIX MONTHS AHEAD AND ARE GIVING YOU THE END OF TERM EXAM RIGHT NOW.

YOU NEED TO IMPRESS HER TO STAY ON THE BOOKS AFTER THAT LITTLE STUNT YOU PULLED AND THE TWO HUNDRED GRAND IN PROPERTY DAMAGE.



BUT HOW DO I GET A FLIGHT WITHOUT ANY MONEY? WHAT'S THIS THING ON MY WRIST?

THAT'S THE ADDRESS WHERE YOU'LL FIND YOUR PASSPORT AND A FIRST CLASS TICKET TO LONDON TUCKED UNDER THE MATTRESS IN THE MASTER BEDROOM.

BUT YOU NEED TO GET THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, GARY. YOUR FLIGHT LEAVES AT MIDNIGHT AND IS NON-REFUNDABLE.



NOW I WOULDN'T WASTE TIME STANDING AROUND IN YOUR UNDERWEAR BECAUSE THE LOCAL POLICE CAN GET PRETTY BRUTAL DOWN THERE.

SOMETIMES I THINK THEY JUST LOOK FOR AN EXCUSE TO BEAT UP RANDOM BRITISH TOURISTS...

¿QUE DEMONIOS ESTÁ PASANDO AQUÍ?



OH SHIT!



¿DÓNDE COÑO ESTÁ TU ROPA? ¿ESTÁS INTENTANDO QUE TE ARRESTEN?

UH, PARDON ME, SIR. I'M ONLY JUST LEARNING SPANISH AND...





BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING?

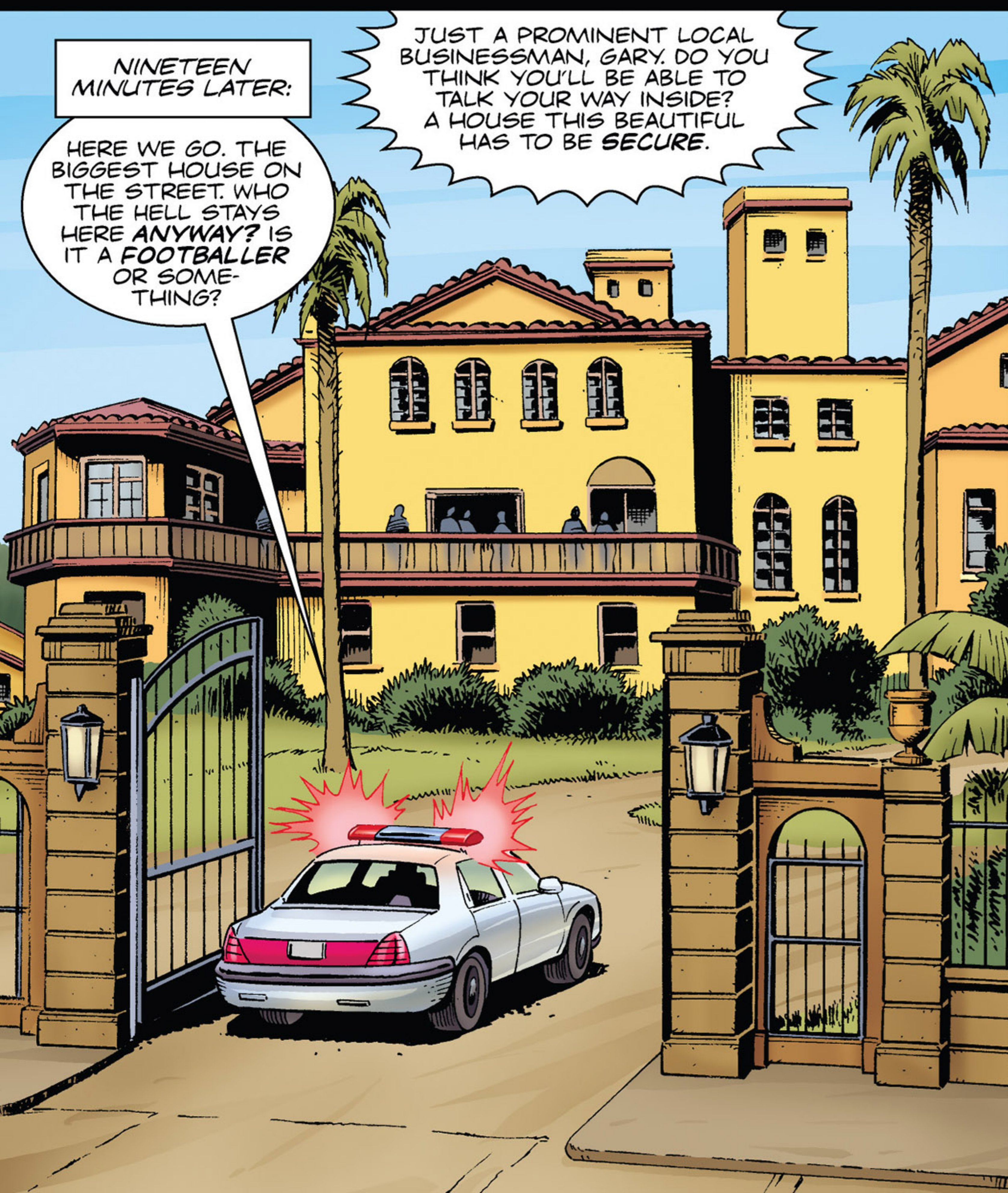
COPS HAVE GOT SAT-NAV, RIGHT? COMPUTER SAYS I'LL BE THERE IN FORTY MINUTES



I'LL TIE HIM UP AND KEEP HIM IN THE BACK OF THE CAR. POLICE-SIRENS MEAN I CAN DO THIS IN TWENTY.



CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK.



NINETEEN MINUTES LATER:

JUST A PROMINENT LOCAL BUSINESSMAN, GARY. DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TALK YOUR WAY INSIDE? A HOUSE THIS BEAUTIFUL HAS TO BE SECURE.

HERE WE GO. THE BIGGEST HOUSE ON THE STREET. WHO THE HELL STAYS HERE ANYWAY? IS IT A FOOTBALLER OR SOMETHING?



AS FAR AS HE KNOWS I'M A COPPER, RIGHT? I'LL JUST SAY I'M DOING A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH OR SOMETHING. THIS SHOULDN'T BE HARD AS LONG AS I'M IN UNIFORM...



CABRONAZO!



WHAT THE FUCK?



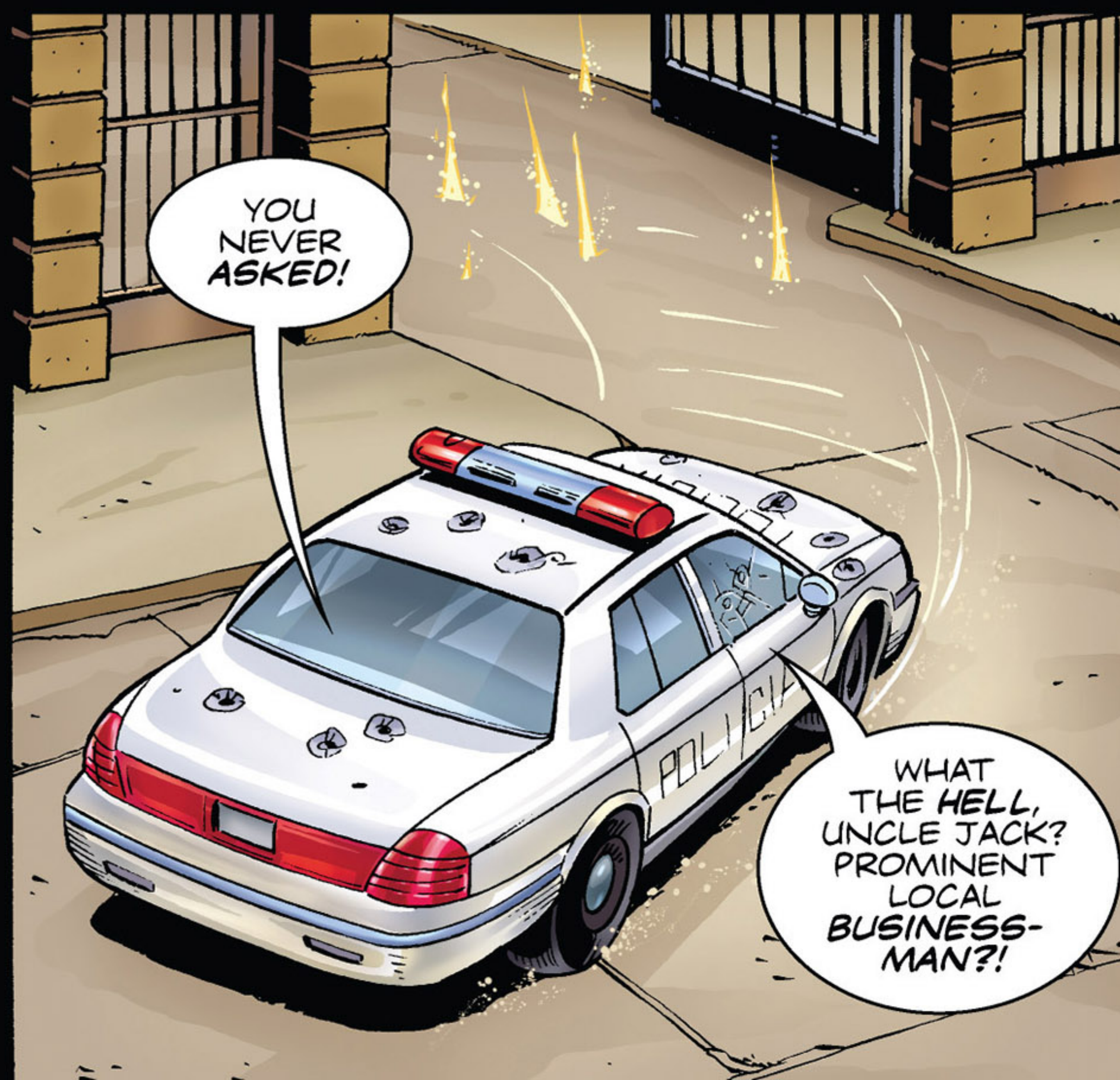
SHIT!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING? WHY ARE THEY SHOOTING AT US?



BECAUSE CARMILLO MARQUEZ IS COLOMBIA'S BIGGEST DRUG-BARON, YOU ASS-HOLE! THIS IS CARMILLO MARQUEZ'S HOUSE!

WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH!



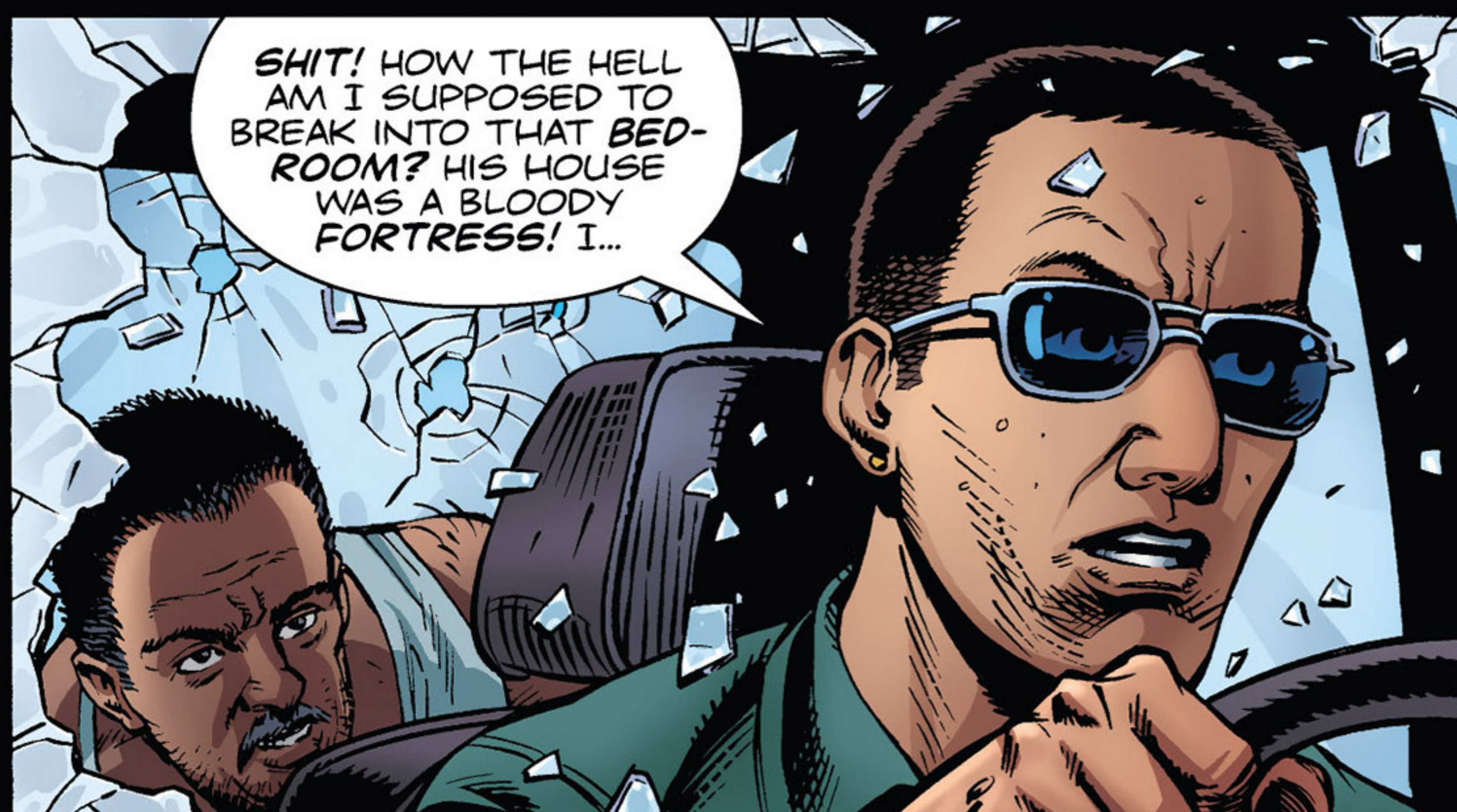
YOU NEVER ASKED!

WHAT THE HELL, UNCLE JACK? PROMINENT LOCAL BUSINESS-MAN?!



SORRY, I MEANT TO SAY THE FBI'S MOST WANTED DRUGS LORD IN SOUTH AMERICA. NOW THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE AN EASY JOB, BUT UNLESS YOU GET THAT PLANE TICKET YOU ARE NOT COMING HOME, SON...

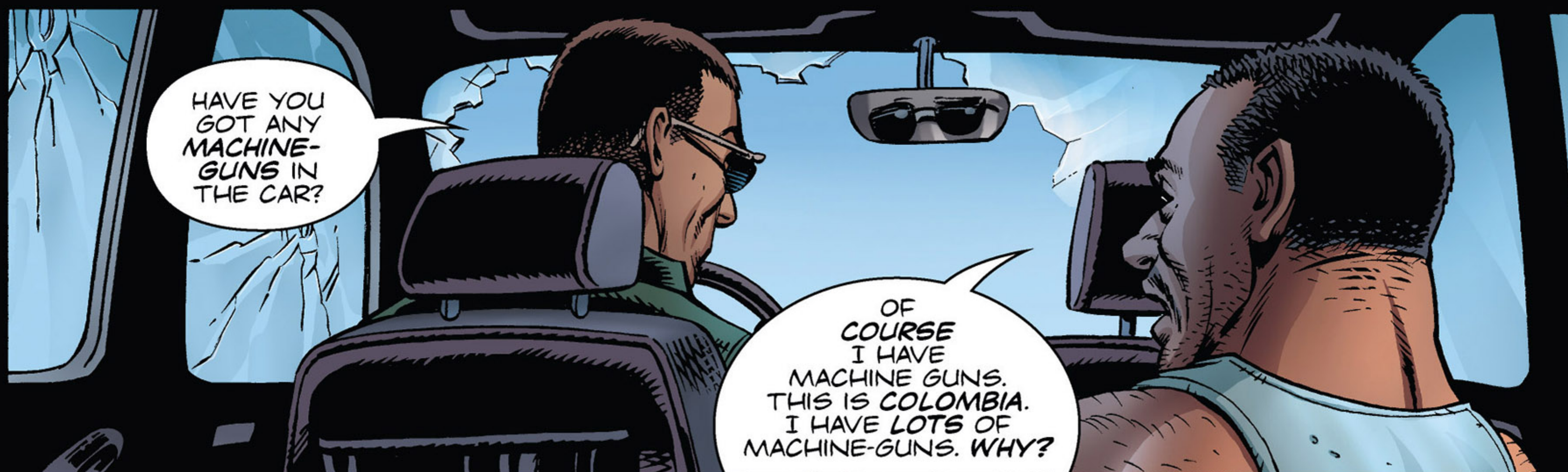
...AND IF YOU DON'T REACH ENGLAND BY MIDNIGHT TO-NIGHT YOU ARE OUT ON YOUR EAR. DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?



SHIT! HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO BREAK INTO THAT BED-ROOM? HIS HOUSE WAS A BLOODY FORTRESS! I...



WAIT A SECOND...



HAVE YOU GOT ANY MACHINE-GUNS IN THE CAR?

OF COURSE I HAVE MACHINE GUNS. THIS IS COLOMBIA. I HAVE LOTS OF MACHINE-GUNS. WHY?



PONTE AL TELÉFONO Y PÁSAME AL JEFE DE POLICÍA. QUIERO SABER QUE HACE MANDANDO UN MADERO AQUÍ...*

* GET ON THE PHONE AND TALK TO THE POLICE CHIEF! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING SENDING A GODDAMN COP DOWN HERE...



HEATHROW AIR-
PORT, LONDON:

I RESPECT
YOUR FAITH IN THIS
GUY, BUT HE ISN'T
GOING TO MAKE IT,
JACK. I CHECKED
THE PASSENGER
LIST AND GARY
ISN'T ON IT.

SO MAYBE
HE'S USING
AN ALIAS.

WE CHECKED THE SECURITY TAPES
AT THE AIRPORT TOO AND HE IS
NOT ON THIS OR ANY OTHER
FLIGHTS COMING IN.

I APPRECIATE
YOU'RE TRYING TO
HELP HIM HERE AND
THE DEPARTMENT
HAS BENT OVER
BACKWARDS TO
ACCOMMODATE...

...BUT HOW MANY LAST
CHANCES SHOULD THIS
GUY HAVE? WHEN DO WE
ADMIT THAT HE MIGHT
NOT BE GOOD
ENOUGH?

HE'LL
BE HERE,
TERI. STOP
GRUMBLING.

IT'S
EIGHTY
-FIVE HUNDRED
KILOMETERS AND
HE MISSED HIS
FLIGHT. HOW THE
HELL'S HE GOING TO
BE HERE NOW?



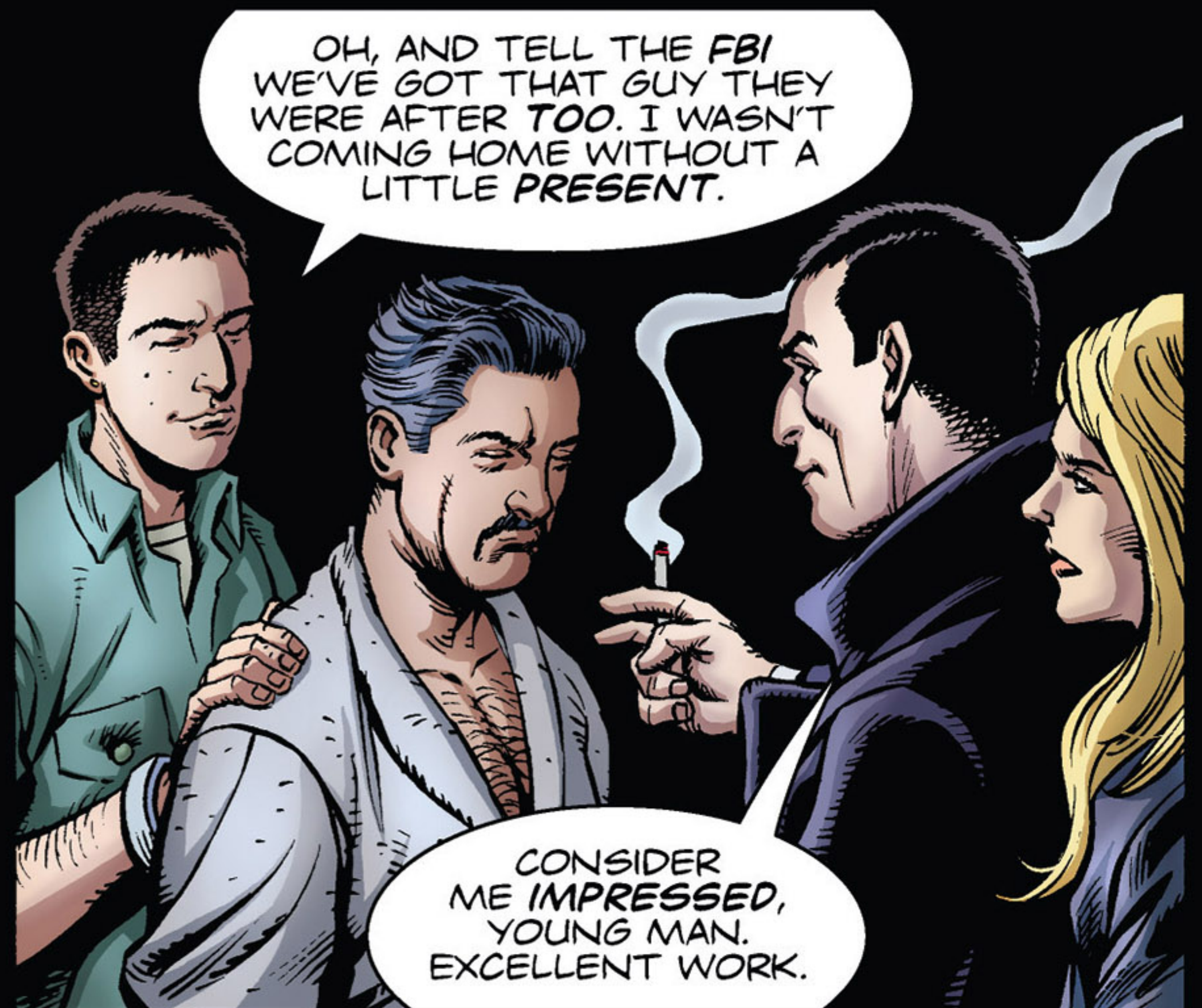


WHAT KIND OF
DRUG-BARON
DOESN'T HAVE A
PRIVATE JET?



OH MY
GOD!

GARY, THIS
IS INSANE.

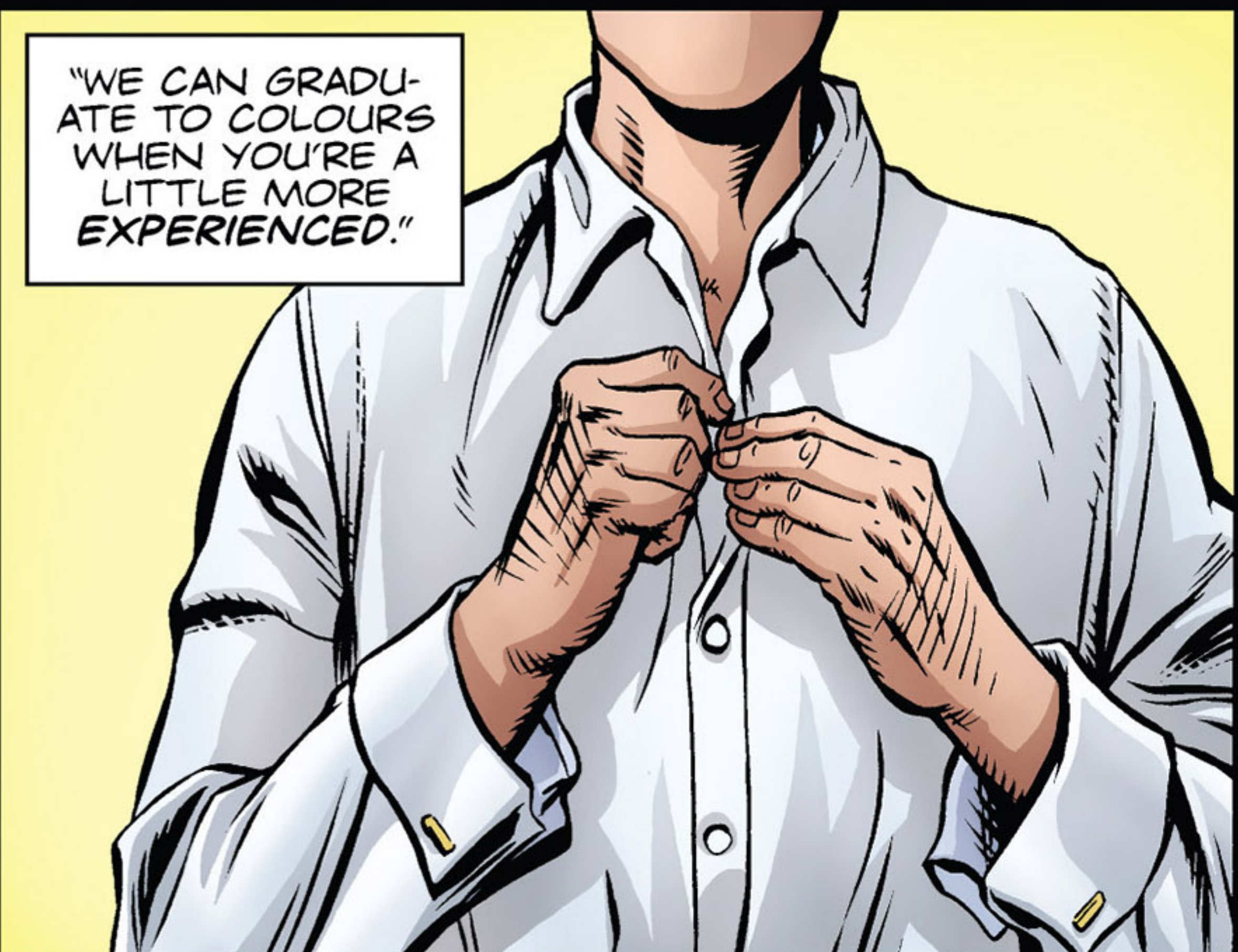
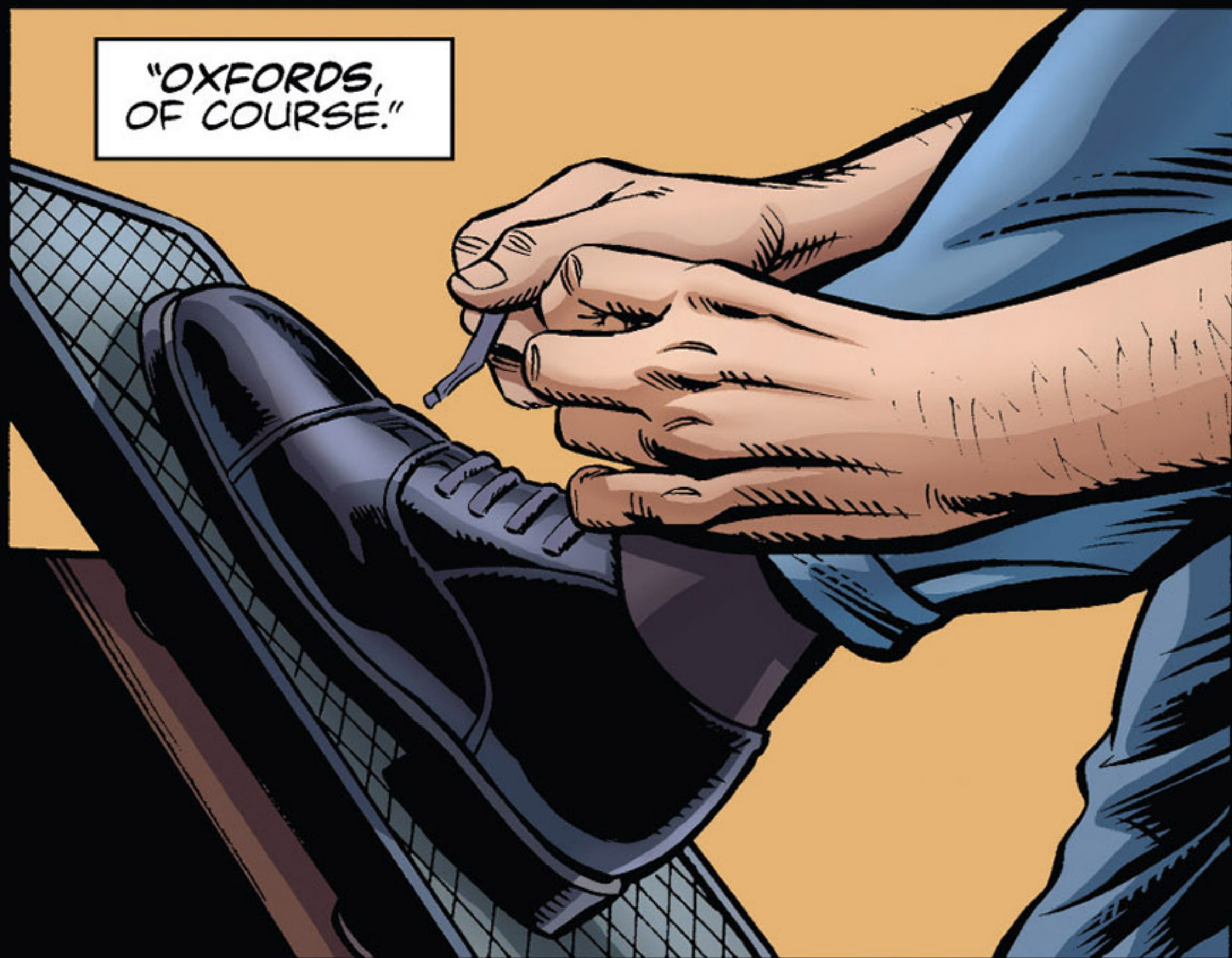


OH, AND TELL THE FBI
WE'VE GOT THAT GUY THEY
WERE AFTER TOO. I WASN'T
COMING HOME WITHOUT A
LITTLE PRESENT.

CONSIDER
ME IMPRESSED,
YOUNG MAN.
EXCELLENT WORK.



NOW LET'S
GET YOU
CLEANED-
UP.



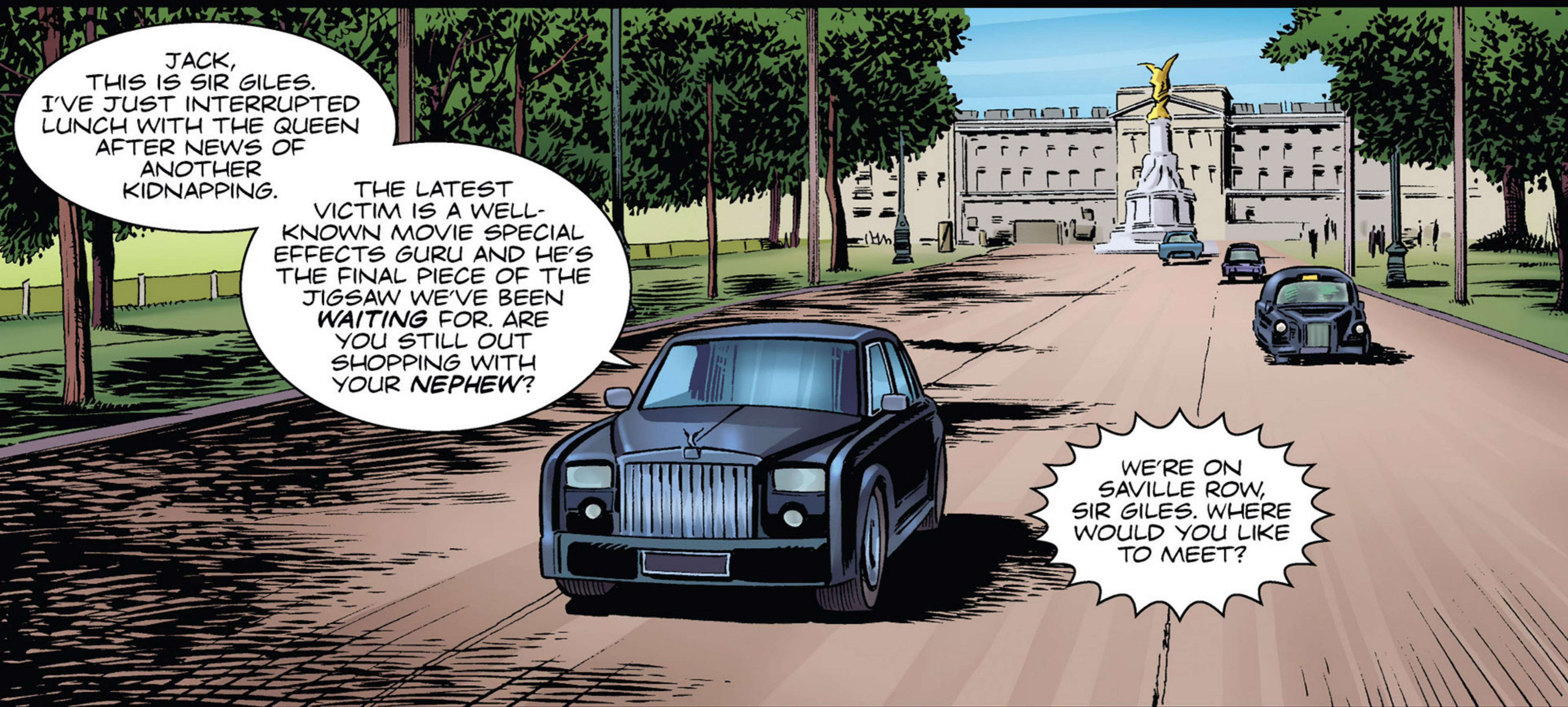


EVERY MAN NEEDS AT LEAST ONE GOOD SUIT. MY RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE NAVY BLUE, A SLIM LAPEL, THREE BUTTONS AND THREE POCKETS.

THE BREAST POCKET SHOULD HAVE A CLEAN, NEATLY PRESSED WOOLEN HANDKERCHIEF. EMPLOY SILK AND I WILL PUBLICLY DISOWN YOU.



TELEPHONE CALL FROM HEADQUARTERS, AGENT LONDON.



JACK, THIS IS SIR GILES. I'VE JUST INTERRUPTED LUNCH WITH THE QUEEN AFTER NEWS OF ANOTHER KIDNAPPING.

THE LATEST VICTIM IS A WELL-KNOWN MOVIE SPECIAL EFFECTS GURU AND HE'S THE FINAL PIECE OF THE JIGSAW WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. ARE YOU STILL OUT SHOPPING WITH YOUR NEPHEW?

WE'RE ON SAVILLE ROW, SIR GILES. WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET?



WE'LL HAVE A BRIEFING READY IN TWENTY MINUTES. MEET US IN THE VIEWING ROOM UNDER BLOOMSBURY SQUARE.

I'M ON MY WAY, SIR.



WHAT ABOUT HIS CIGARETTES? ANY PARTICULAR BRAND?

JUST ORDER HIM THE SAME AS MINE FROM MORLANDS IN GROVENOR STREET. THE MACEDONIAN BLEND WITH THE THREE GOLD RINGS AROUND THE BUTT.



OH, AND GIVE HIM A WIDE GUN-METAL CASE LIKE THE ONE I'VE GOT HERE. EVERYTHING HE CARRIES NEEDS TO LOOK DANGEROUS.



PECKHAM,
SOUTH
LONDON:

WHAT
THE HELL'S
GOING ON
HERE?

I'M DOING THE PLACE
UP FOR GARY COMING
BACK. I JUST WANTED
TO GIVE HIM A NICE
SURPRISE AND SHOW
HIM HOW PROUD WE
ALL ARE. WHAT DO
YOU THINK OF
THE BALLOONS?

BALLOONS ARE FUCKING
BALLOONS, SHARON.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED
TO THINK? IS THIS SO
HE THINKS YOU'RE A
GOOD MUM? IS THIS
TO MAKE UP FOR
BEING A BAD ONE
ALL THOSE
YEARS?

OH, DON'T
START! I'VE
HAD ENOUGH
OF YOUR RUB-
BISH! I'M NOT
IN THE MOOD
FOR THIS
TODAY!

WHAT DID
YOU FUCKING
SAY TO ME?

YOU
SEEM VERY
OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT THE
KIDNAPPINGS,
SIR GILES

OH, WE'VE
GOT HIM, JACK.
I'M ABSOLUTELY
CERTAIN OF IT.

THERE'S
PLENTY OF
LUNATICS WHO COULD
AFFORD THIS KIND OF
THING, BUT ONLY ONE
WITH SUCH A SPECIFIC
RANGE OF
INTERESTS.



FROM MARK HAMILL TO SIR KEN ROBINSON, TONY ROBBINS TO SIMON SINEK, ROWDY RODDY PIPER TO ELEVEN FORMER ANIMATORS AT HANNA-BARBERA.

WE ACCESSED GOOGLE'S DATABASE AND HIS RANGE OF SEARCHES WAS AS UNIQUE AS A FINGER-PRINT.

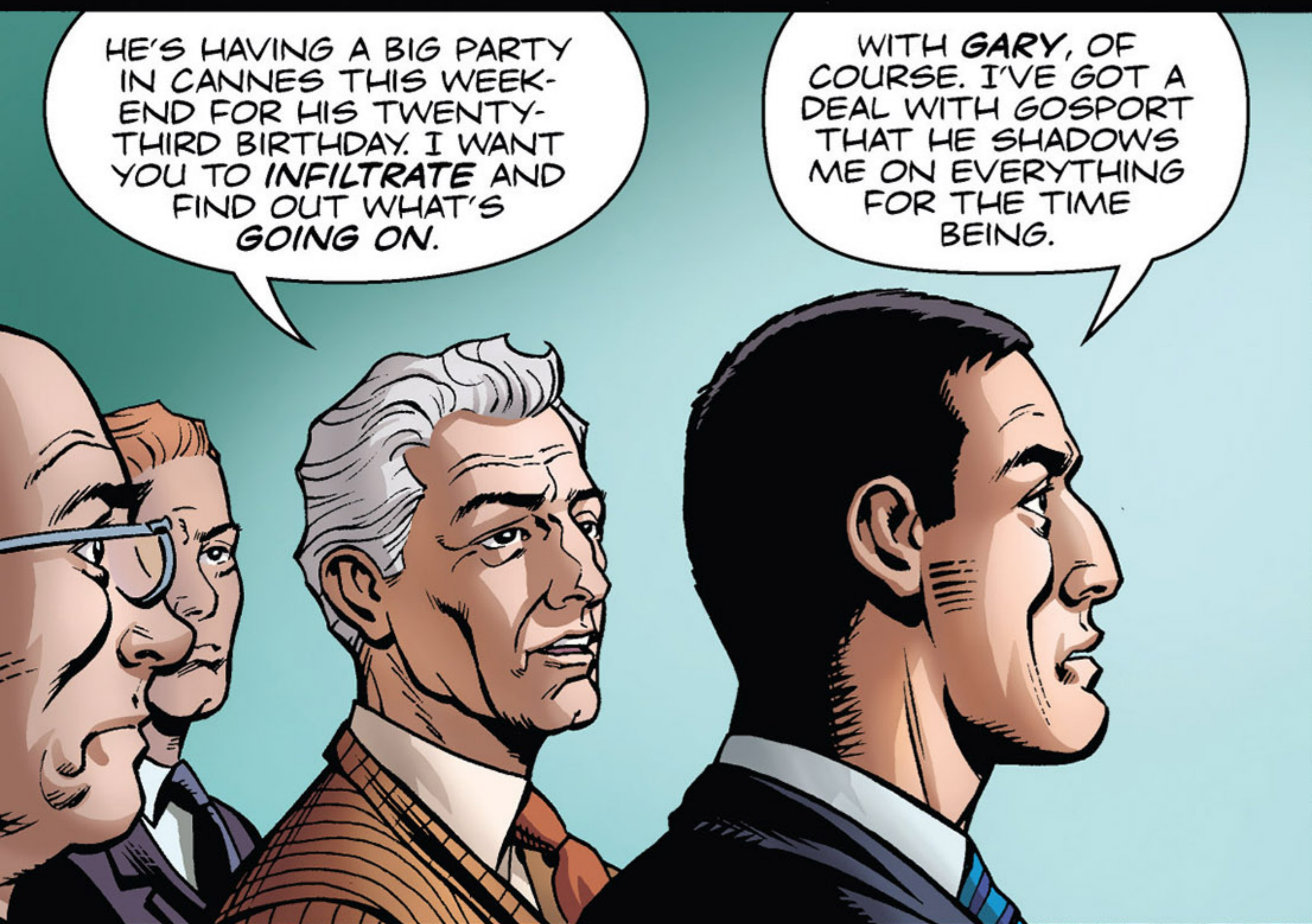
WHAT'S HIS NAME?



DR. JAMES ARNOLD.

WHO?

CELL-PHONE ENTREPRENEUR AND THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH RICHEST MAN ON THE PLANET, AGENT LONDON. WE'VE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S DOING WITH THESE PEOPLE, BUT THAT'S YOUR JOB TO FIND OUT.

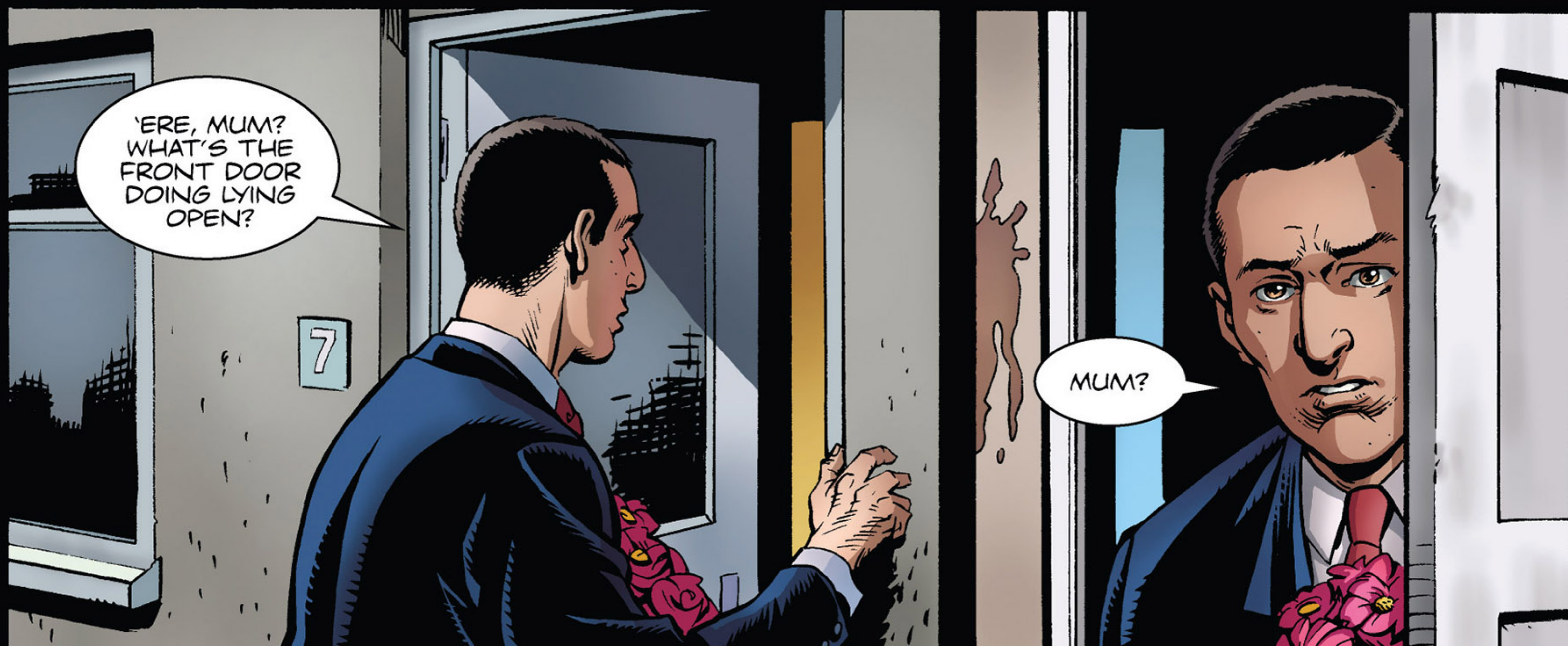


HE'S HAVING A BIG PARTY IN CANNES THIS WEEK-END FOR HIS TWENTY-THIRD BIRTHDAY. I WANT YOU TO INFILTRATE AND FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

WITH GARY, OF COURSE. I'VE GOT A DEAL WITH GOSPORT THAT HE SHADOWS ME ON EVERYTHING FOR THE TIME BEING.



"IF YOU ABSOLUTELY INSIST."









ALRIGHT,
YOU LITTLE PRICK!
COME AND SHOW US
WHAT YOU LEARNED
ON YOUR FUCKING
COMPUTER COURSE!
COME AND TEACH
NAUGHTY DARREN
A LESSON, EH?



TO BE CONTINUED